

Federal Clean Water Act Grant

A Section 319 Grant for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects to reduce fecal coliform levels in the May River

[Reports Submitted](#)



The Town of Bluffton was awarded a \$483,500 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

Over the course of three (3) years, the Town of Bluffton will utilize the funding to install Best Management Practices including physical structures, educational programs, and crafting ordinance changes that are intended to reduce fecal coliform levels in the river.

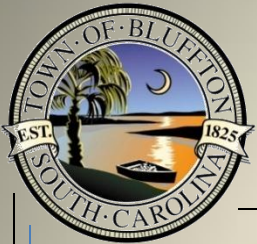
The success of the project will be measured within one (1) year after the close of the project (July 2013). At that time, if oysters are harvestable throughout the entire May River, the project will be deemed a success.

Town of Bluffton Grants in Action
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Pollution Control Projects Schedule	FY10	FY11	FY12
Manure Management Plan			
RV/Campground Waste Management Plan	COMPLETED		
Wildlife Management			
Bird Roosting Deterrent (#100)			
Construction Site Inspection Program			
Ditch Enhancement/Erosion Prevention			
EPA Water Sense Partnership			
Environmental Sustainability Awareness Campaign			
Pet Waste Stations (Palmetto Pride Grant)		COMPLETED	
Pet Septic Systems (#45)			
Unified Ordinance Overhaul (UO)- Watershed Planning; Stormwater; Land Use; Land Disturbance			
Municipal Code - Septic System Maintenance Ordinance			
Municipal Ordinance - Pet Waste Disposal		COMPLETED	
Septic System Pump-outs (#22)			
Septic System Replacements (#1-2)			
Pond Enhancements/BMP Maintenance			
Enhanced Buffers Plan (Sea Grant) (#47)			
Pilot Project			
Rain Barrels & Rain Gardens (#145 barrels & #45 gardens)			

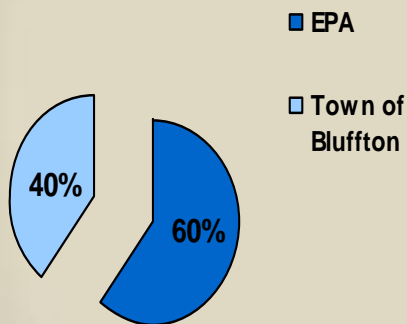
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Federal Clean Water Act Grant Financials

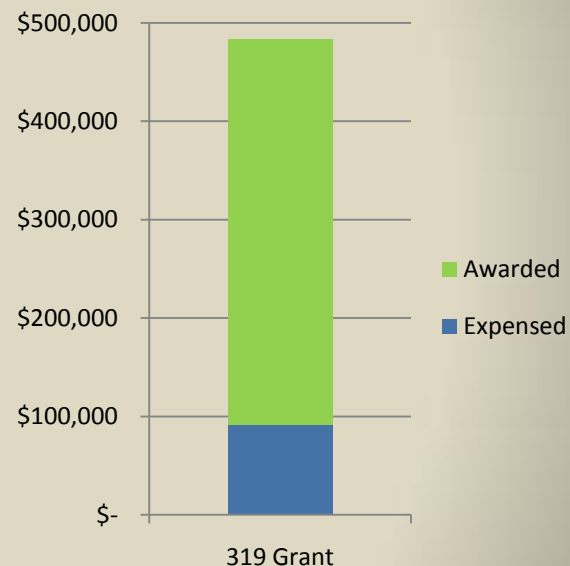
Financial Partners



The Town of Bluffton was awarded an Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)) grant of \$483,500 from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ([SCDHEC](#)).

This was the largest Section 319 grant ever awarded by SCDHEC due to its comprehensive plan to reduce fecal coliform levels in the May River.

The Town has committed to a 40% match of this grant with staff salaries, valued at \$322,495 over the life of the grant, which brings the grand total of this initiative to \$805,995.





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Cooperating Partnerships

Milestones Completed in Fiscal Years 2010-2011

- SCDHEC completed a RV/Campground Waste Management Plan.
- Construction site inspection program continues.
- Ditch Enhancement/Erosion Prevention continues and Oyster Factory Park improvements initiated.
- Environmental Sustainability Awareness Campaign RFP released.
- Purchased & installed 10 pet waste stations and 6 trash cans.
- Updated the Municipal Code – Animal Chapter to require proper pet waste disposal.
- Consolidated Unified Ordinance overhaul with a watershed-based approach initiated and first draft under staff review.
- Pilot Project final design underway.
- Coordinated with Beaufort County to initiate 319 Grant activities within their jurisdiction.
- 145 rain barrels delivered/installed in May River Watershed.
- 1 rain garden installed at May River Montessori in the Spring.

Path Forward for Fiscal Year 2011

- Award Environmental Sustainability Awareness contract in December 2010 and begin work on campaign.
- Continue to craft Unified Ordinance.
- Assess options for implementing a septic system inspection program, including Septic System Maintenance Ordinance, with Beaufort County and SCDHEC.
- Survey owners of septic systems within the May River watershed to identify those properties who may need grant assistance with pump outs for inspections and possible repairs.
- Begin construction of Pilot Project design.
- Complete 44 rain garden installations by December 2010.

These organizations have provided staff time and supply resources for the completion of this project.



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Projects in Action – Town Hall Rain Barrel & Garden Demonstration



In 2008, the Town received a Healthy Community grant from Ward Edwards to hold a seminar and install a rain garden and rain barrels at Town Hall. In 4 hours volunteers not only learned about the environmental and economical benefits of these “green” initiatives, but also got hands-on experience as they installed them.

As the Town continues its Old Town retrofit with support from the Section 319 Grant, potential owners can visit Town Hall at 20 Bridge Street to see the finished products for themselves.

For more information on the installation of Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels [click here](#).



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Projects in Action – Rain Barrel & Garden Program



The past year has seen much activity surrounding the Rain Barrel and Rain Garden Program. The first rain garden was installed by the [Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class](#) of 2010 as part of their class project at May River Montessori on Calhoun Street in May 2010. The [Lowcountry Master Gardener Council](#) has offered to assist homeowners with their rain garden installations.

Rain barrel installations soon followed with 139 barrels installed by the end of September by the Town and the barrel supplier.

The goal of installing 145 rain barrels and 45 rain gardens by the end of the year is on target.



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Projects in Action – Unified Code Overhaul



The public charrette for the Unified Code Overhaul was held in May 2010. Several hundred citizens from the greater Bluffton area attended to give their input to the future development codes for the Town.

The 5-day long event concluded with a public presentation and mock-up displays at the Oscar Frazier Community Center.

To learn more about the Unified Code Overhaul Project please [click here](#).



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Projects in Action – Environmental Sustainability Awareness Campaign



While an RFP to secure a professional consultant to create an environmental sustainability awareness campaign has been released, the Town is not waiting to engage the Bluffton community in celebrating the May River through various environmental sustainability initiatives including:

- Three community cleanups that removed over a ton of litter from the May River with the aid of various partners and over 250 volunteers!
- Nearly 100 people in the watershed participating in the Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Program to prevent nearly 800,000 gallons of potentially polluted runoff from reaching the May River annually!
- Several hundred community members participating in the Unified Code Overhaul!

Watch for more ways to be announced soon where you can do your share to be part of the solution to pollution!

